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Executive summary

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

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II. Executive summary

Sierra Leone

1. Introduction: Overview of the legal and institutional framework of Sierra Leone in the context of implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

Sierra Leone signed the Convention on 9 December 2003, and ratified it and deposited its instrument of ratification on 30 September 2004.

Sierra Leone's legal system is common-law based, but also includes elements of statutory and customary law. International conventions have to be domesticated in order to have legal effect in Sierra Leone.

Relevant legislation includes the Anti-Corruption Act of 2008 (ACA 2008), the Criminal Procedure Code of 1965 (CPC), the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2012 (AML Act 2012), the Extradition Act of 1974 and the Constitution, which includes the aim and responsibility to fight corruption in article 6(5).

The principal authority in the fight against corruption is the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), which is responsible for the prevention, investigation and prosecution of corruption offences. The following other institutions are also relevant: the Sierra Leone Police, the financial intelligence unit, the Director of Public Prosecution, the Audit Service of Sierra Leone, the Office of the Ombudsman, the National Public Procurement Authority, and the Political Parties Registration Commission.

2. Chapter III: Criminalization and law enforcement

2.1. Observations on the implementation of the articles under review

Bribery and trading in influence (arts. 15, 16, 18 and 21)

Active and passive bribery are criminalized in sections 28(1) and (2) of the ACA 2008. The provision does not clearly include advantages for other persons or entities. However, this aspect is comprised in the general rule of section 1(2)(a) to (c) of ACA 2008. The term "person" is meant to include entities, but no case examples were presented to manifest this.

The ACA 2008 also comprises multiple provisions for specific cases of bribery.

According to section 1 of ACA 2008, "public officer" means an officer or member of a public body including a person holding or acting in an office in any of the three branches of government, whether appointed or elected, permanent or temporary, or paid or unpaid. The interpretation was considered wide enough to include persons fulfilling a public function.

Bribery of foreign public officials or officials of public international organizations is partially criminalized. Under section 28 in conjunction with section 1 of the ACA 2008, bribery of a public officer of any organization providing voluntary social services to the public or for charitable purposes is criminalized. This could include international organizations within this narrow scope. Neither active nor passive bribery of a foreign public official is criminalized.

Active and passive trading in influence are covered by sections 29(1) and 31(1) and (2) of the ACA 2008 and sections 29(2) and 31(3) and (4) respectively. Section 29 has a specific focus on contracts and subcontracts with public bodies. Section 31 captures all other cases relating to any work, employment, contract or other benefit, tangible and intangible.

Bribery in the private sector is partially criminalized with regard to bid rigging (section 32 ACA 2008) and with regard to corrupt transactions with agents (section 39 ACA 2008). Persons who direct in any capacity the work of a private sector entity are not covered.

Case examples were presented but without sufficient details to assess the implementation in practice.

Money-laundering, concealment (arts. 23 and 24)

Money-laundering is criminalized in 52(1) of the ACA 2008 and section 15(1)(a) of the AML Act 2012 and can be prosecuted by the ACC. Any "unlawful activity" committed within or outside of Sierra Leone constitutes a predicate offence. Despite this wide definition, a gap exists with regard to article 23(2)(b) as the mandatory provision of the Convention article 16(1) is not fully criminalized. No cases have been prosecuted yet.

Concealment is criminalized by the same provisions on money-laundering, as the mere physical possession or hiding of property without added activity of concealing the illegal origins would be considered sufficient for those charges.

Embezzlement, abuse of functions and illicit enrichment (arts. 17, 19, 20 and 22)

Embezzlement and misappropriation of public revenue or public funds are criminalized (sections 36, 37, as well as 42 and 48 ACA 2008). Due to the absence of case examples, concerns about the effectiveness of the provisions remain.

Embezzlement in the private sector is criminalized in section 40 ACA 2008 when deceiving a principal. Sections 17 to 20 of the Larceny Act 1916 also apply. Section 20(1)(iv) criminalizes the conversion of entrusted property to one's own or another person's use or benefit. If the provision was wide enough to cover securities and if it had been applied in practice was not sufficiently clear. Consolidation of the legislation might be a safeguard.

Sierra Leone criminalized abuse of function in section 42, where an officer uses his office to improperly confer an advantage on himself of any other person. Section 44 criminalizes any use of office for an advantage, section 43 the abuse of office irrespective of the advantage.

Illicit enrichment is criminalized (section 27 ACA 2008) and even covers former public officials.

Obstruction of justice (art. 25)

Obstruction of justice as defined in article 25(a) is mainly criminalized in section 127 ACA 2008 and 114 AML Act 2012, which prohibit a person to obstruct, hinder, assault or threaten a person acting under this Act. This would include the

giving of testimony. If the inducement of false testimony could be subsumed under obstruction or hindrance could not be fully clarified due to absence of cases.

Article 25(b) is covered in section 30 of the ACA 2008 and section 116 of the AML Act 2012, which criminalize the obstruction of any public officer in the execution of his function.

Liability of legal persons (art. 26)

A corporation can be charged either alone or jointly with another person (section 207 Criminal Procedure Act 1965). According to sections 129 of the ACA 2008 and 130 of the AML Act 2012, where an offence is committed by a body of persons, every director, officer or partner shall be deemed to have committed that offence. The different terminology could pose a challenge. Punishment includes fines at the discretion of the court. The ACA 2008 and the AML Act 2012 provide for the possibility to impose a ban on the company and to initiate civil proceedings for damages.

Participation and attempt (art. 27)

All relevant forms of participation are covered. According to section 128(1) of the ACA 2008 the "attempt or conspiracy to commit a corruption offence or aiding, abetting, counselling, commanding or procuring the commission of a corruption offence shall be punishable as if the offence had been completed." Sections 15 and 129 of the AML Act 2012 and section 35 of the Larceny Act include similar provisions.

Mere preparation to commit a criminal offence established in accordance with this Convention is not criminalized.

Prosecution, adjudication and sanctions; cooperation with law enforcement authorities (arts. 30 and 37)

Penalties include imprisonment and fines. The range only foresees a minimum amount and no maximum, leaving room to impose penalties according to the gravity of the offence. Bans from trade or occupation are also possible.

In Sierra Leone, only functional immunities exist. Therefore, a person's status as a public official does not prevent an investigation for allegations of corruption.

Discretion to prosecute all offences committed under the ACA 2008 rests exclusively with the Commissioner of the ACC and can also be extended to the prosecution of related offences such as money-laundering offences under the AML Act 2012. Sierra Leone has placed strict conditions on granting bail.

The general rules on parole in the Prison Act 1961 allow early release upon recommendation of the Parole Board. Prisoners are provided with some skills trainings at prison workshops.

A public officer who is charged with corruption or economic crime can be suspended at half pay according to section 134 of the ACA 2008. Reassignment is not regulated. The Commissioner of the ACC is required to inform the appropriate authorities about such indictments. Case examples on suspension exist.

Dismissal upon conviction is possible according to section 135 of the ACA 2008. Exceptional rules are applied for persons holding an office regulated by the Constitution (e.g. 135-137 of the Constitution in the removal of judges). The possibility of granting immunity from prosecution to or mitigating the punishment of cooperating offenders is not clearly regulated. Possibilities exist in line with the discretionary powers of the Commissioner under section 7 of the ACA 2008 and general considerations about sentencing.

Protection of witnesses and reporting persons (arts. 32 and 33)

Protection of witnesses, related persons or victims is provided for in sections 82 and 83 of the ACA 2008. The offences for which protection is offered include all offences under the ACA 2008.

Protective measures for reporting persons are established (sections 81 and 82 ACA 2008), including the protection of the identity and protection from criminal and civil liability.

Freezing, seizing and confiscation; bank secrecy (arts. 31 and 40)

Sections 98 of the ACA 2008 and 82 of the AML Act 2012 permit the court to order, upon conviction, the confiscation of any property or proceeds in the possession or control of the convicted or value thereof, including income and gains from such assets. Both sections specify that, unless the contrary is proved, any property shall be deemed to be derived from corruption or proceeds of crime. Only section 82 of the AML Act 2012 includes confiscation of property, equipment and other instrumentalities used or destined for use in money-laundering. If the property has been transferred, co-mingled or cannot be confiscated for any other reason, value-based confiscation would be possible by using a wide interpretation of "any property" in the AML Act 2012. Both laws also include broad regulations on tracing, seizing and freezing, including protections of bona fide third parties in regard to freezing/seizure and confiscation.

Non-conviction-based forfeiture is possible if the suspect has absconded according to sections 88 of the ACA 2008 and 84 of the AML Act 2012, the latter of which also included cases where the accused has died.

Administration of seized property is the responsibility of the ACC while in its custody. The court can make an order as to the administration or disposal of confiscated property. The competent authorities for the administration are the Office of the Under Sherriff and the Administrator General of the Ministry of Justice.

Any secrecy and confidentiality obligations are overruled by sections 57(3) and 53(8) of the ACA 2008 when the Commissioner or court order the production of records or documents.

Statute of limitations; criminal record (arts. 29 and 41)

Sierra Leone has no statute of limitations in criminal proceedings.

Prior convictions of an accused person are taken into consideration in regard to sentencing or evidence of bad character. In practice this is also done in regard to criminal convictions in foreign jurisdictions.

Jurisdiction (art. 42)

Sierra Leone has territorial jurisdiction over offences committed within Sierra Leone (sections 36 et seq. of the CPC). Section 42 of the CPC extends jurisdiction to offences committed on an aircraft operated by or on behalf of a company registered in Sierra Leone. Vessels flying the flag of Sierra Leone are not explicitly mentioned but seem to be included according to common-law principles. Sierra Leone has not established jurisdiction over offences committed against a citizen or against the State. Conduct by a citizen outside of Sierra Leone is subject to the jurisdiction of Sierra Leone if it would constitute an offence if had taken place in Sierra Leone, including predicate offences for money-laundering (section 137 ACA 2008).

Consequences of acts of corruption; compensation for damage (arts. 34 and 35)

Sections 131 of the ACA 2008 and 132 and 115 of the AML Act 2012 give courts the possibility to ban a person for up to five years from the pursuit of a profession, trade, vocation or occupation, or to revoke licences.

Where the Commission is satisfied that a person has been party to corruption and has benefited from it, the Commission shall institute civil proceedings for damages (section 133 of the ACA 2008). Provisions for tort under the UK Tort Act (1965) are applicable, as well as principles of common law, according to which acts of corruption could provide grounds for claims for damages and injunctive relief, among other potential actions.

Specialized authorities and inter-agency coordination (arts. 36, 38 and 39)

The ACC has prosecutorial powers without requiring the consent of the Attorney-General and the Minister of Justice and shall not be subject to direction or control by any person or authority according to section 9 of the ACA 2008. The Commissioner can only be removed from office upon recommendation by a special tribunal and upon approval by a two third majority of Parliament.

Public officers have a duty to report suspected acts of corruption (section 77 ACA 2008). Section 84 requires public officers to provide assistance upon request to an investigating officer.

Cooperation between the ACC and the private sector is not formalized, but the ACC has carried out awareness-raising initiatives or trainings, including for risk sectors. As regards reporting entities, the AML Act 2012 comprises relevant provisions on suspicious transaction reports and other obligations. Further, the ACC runs a hotline to enable reports from the public.

2.2. Successes and good practices

- The bribery provision of section 28 of the ACA 2008 includes in subsection 4 the rebuttable presumption that the accused gave, agreed to give or offered the advantage for any of the purposes set out in subsection (1) (art. 15 a).
- Section 27(2) of the ACA 2008 on possession of unexplained wealth also takes into consideration unexplained wealth held by persons who have a close relationship to the public officer, where there is reason to believe that this person holds such wealth for the public officer. In the absence of evidence to

the contrary, the section establishes a presumption that such wealth would be in control of the accused public officer (art. 20).

- According to section 89 of the ACA 2008, offences under this Act have priority of hearing and benefit from other procedural regulations that support an effective prosecution and trial.

- Sierra Leone has no statute of limitation which has been considered useful with regard to late detection of cases or complex investigations (art. 29).

2.3. Challenges in implementation

It is recommended that Sierra Leone:

- Ensure that advantages for entities or corporations as third-party beneficiary of bribery are sufficiently covered (art. 15).

- Fully criminalize the active bribery of foreign public officials and officials of public international organizations and consider criminalizing passive bribery of such officials (art. 16).

- Monitor and strengthen the effective implementation of the provisions on embezzlement and misappropriation (art. 17).

- Consider fully criminalizing bribery in the private sector (art. 21).

- Consider consolidating the provisions on embezzlement in the private sector to ensure full criminalization (art. 22).

- Ensure that the "inducement of false testimony" can be captured under obstruction or hindrance of a person acting under the ACA 2008. If in the future, the judiciary does not interpret the law in this sense, clarify the law through legislative reform (art. 25(a)).

- May adopt measures to establish as an offence the preparation of an offence (art. 27(3)).

- Monitor the implementation of liability of legal persons and consolidate the terminology in case of need (art. 26).

- Consider clearly regulating the possibility to mitigate the punishment or to grant immunity for cooperating offenders and to enter into respective agreements with other States parties (art. 37).

- Include measures to enable the confiscation, freezing and seizure of equipment or other instrumentalities used in or destined for use in corruption offences in the ACA 2008 (art. 31, subpara. 1(b), 2).

- Adopt further measures, as may be necessary, to regulate the administration of frozen, seized and confiscated property (art. 31, para. 3).

- Sierra Leone could expand its legislation on criminal jurisdiction to include the passive personality principle, offences committed against the State or in case of non-extradition (art. 42, subparas. 2(a) and (d) and para. 4).

2.4. Technical assistance needs identified to improve implementation of the Convention

Sierra Leone indicated that it would require a range of technical assistance.

- On-site assistance by an anti-corruption expert to strengthen the gathering of intelligence, the forensic analysis of financial and other documents, investigation techniques and good practices in inter-agency coordination in relation to these matters as well as case management and/or intranet solutions (e.g. article 15, 23, 31, and other provisions).
- Legislative drafting and capacity-building for investigators and law enforcement officials (art. 16).
- Summaries of good practices and lessons learned on the investigation and prosecution of embezzlement and misappropriation (art. 17) and model legislation, assistance in legislative drafting, legal advice and on-site assistance by an anti-corruption expert with regard to bribery in the private sector (art. 22).
- Legal advice with regard to cases involving legal persons (art. 26).
- Assistance in regard of reintegration of convicted offenders (art. 30).
- Good practices, model agreements, legal advice, model legislation and/or capacity-building in regard to cooperating offenders (art. 37).

3. Chapter IV: International cooperation

3.1. Observations on the implementation of the articles under review

Extradition, transfer of sentenced persons; transfer of criminal proceedings (arts. 44, 45 and 47)

Extradition is governed by the Extradition Act 1974 (EA). Extradition cannot be granted to countries that are not part of the Commonwealth, Guinea or listed in the third schedule to the Act. Thus, Sierra Leone cannot extradite to over 70 States parties to the Convention. Formal extradition proceedings are judicial proceedings. However, Sierra Leone also practices informal extraditions with the Gambia, Guinea, Nigeria and the United States of America. Such informal extraditions are carried out without prior court proceedings and are not subject to the conditions provided for by the domestic law of Sierra Leone or by extradition treaties.

Sierra Leone has concluded a bilateral extradition treaty with the United States, and is party to the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption, the Convention on Extradition of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and member of the London Scheme for Extradition within the Commonwealth.

Depending on the requesting State, Sierra Leone may grant extradition in the absence of dual criminality: For Commonwealth States, extradition can be granted in the absence of dual criminality if the Attorney-General consents to the person being brought before court (section 17 EA). For Guinea (section 22 EA), extradition is only possible if the dual criminality requirement is satisfied. For countries listed in the third schedule (section 23 EA), extradition can be granted if the dual

criminality requirement is satisfied and the offence corresponds to a crime punishable in Sierra Leone with imprisonment for twelve months or more.

Sierra Leone makes extradition conditional on the existence of a treaty. The Convention cannot be regarded as legal basis for extradition; the Secretary-General of the United Nations has not been notified in this regard.

In accordance with section 126 ACA 2008, the Extradition Act 1974 shall apply as if any corruption offence or economic crime was an offence for which extradition may be granted.

Neither the Extradition Act 1974 nor the extradition treaty with the United States regulate offences related to offences that meet the threshold for extradition.

The treaty with the United States defines extraditable offences in a list; not all corruption offences are included. In such cases, the extradition treaty prevails over the Extradition Act (section 1, subsection 3 EA).

Extradition can be refused if the case is of a trivial nature (section 15, subsection 1(d) EA). No definition of "trivial nature" is established.

In general, Sierra Leone does not extradite its nationals. Exceptions can be made in certain cases if its nationals are also nationals of another Commonwealth country (section 20 EA). There is no general obligation to try or extradite.

The Constitution foresees the possibility to enforce foreign sentences in criminal matters. Such enforcement is not possible in practice due to the absence of implementing legislation.

Extradition should not be granted if it appears to the Attorney-General that it would be contrary to public policy (section 2 EA). The Treaty with the United States allows for the refusal of extradition if the offence is a political offence, but not for ordinary crimes if the request has been made on discriminatory grounds.

There is no legal obligation to consult with other States prior to refusing extradition; however, Sierra Leone confirmed that such consultations would be held in practice.

Sierra Leone has not concluded agreements or arrangements on the transfer of persons sentenced for criminal offences.

Sierra Leone cannot transfer criminal proceedings, but could provide investigation files to other countries unless Sierra Leone had jurisdiction over the offence.

Mutual legal assistance (art. 46)

Sierra Leone regulates mutual legal assistance in various acts (part VII, ACA 2008; part XII, AML Act 2012; and part IV of the Special Court Agreement, 2002 (Ratification) Act 2002).

Sierra Leone does not require a treaty to provide mutual legal assistance and can assist on the basis of reciprocity. Sierra Leone has concluded a memorandum of understanding with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, cooperates in the framework of the Mano River Union and is party to the ECOWAS Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, the ECOWAS Protocol on the Fight against Corruption, and member of the Scheme relating to Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters within the Commonwealth (the Harare Scheme).

Sierra Leone can provide assistance in the absence of dual criminality apart from certain coercive measures (section 106, subsection 3 ACA 2008). Sierra Leone accepts requests for mutual legal assistance sent through the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), by e-mail or fax. The Attorney-General is the central authority for mutual legal assistance and requests are received in English, of which the Secretary-General of the United Nations has not been notified.

Sierra Leone could apply the Convention directly (section 40, subsection 4, Constitution). The implementing legislation required for such direct application has not been enacted.

Assistance to recover assets in accordance with chapter V of the Convention it is not explicitly foreseen.

Sierra Leone can spontaneously transmit information to neighbouring States.

Bank secrecy is not a ground for refusal of mutual legal assistance.

Sierra Leone can transfer detained persons or persons serving a sentence to another State party in accordance with paragraph 10 of article 46 of the Convention even if they do not give their informed consent (section 103 ACA 2008). No regulatory framework exists for such transfers.

There is no provision regulating the use of video conferencing in mutual legal assistance cases or the principle of specialty. The authorities indicated that they would consult with the State party concerned prior to using information obtained through mutual legal assistance in other proceedings, and prior to refusing or postponing the execution of a request.

Sierra Leone can refuse requests for mutual legal assistance if the grounds for refusal under the law of the requesting State are substantially different from the grounds established in Sierra Leonean law.

Sierra Leone does not have legislation on the safe conduct of witnesses, experts or other persons who consent to give evidence or to assist in an investigation, prosecution or judicial proceeding.

Sierra Leone bears the ordinary costs of the execution of a request.

Law enforcement cooperation; joint investigations; special investigative techniques (arts. 48, 49 and 50)

Law enforcement agencies cooperate via INTERPOL and the West African Police Chiefs Committee; the financial intelligence unit is seeking membership of the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units. Sierra Leone has concluded an agreement on direct cooperation with the United Kingdom and exchanges personnel with Scotland Yard. Investigators are trained by the Commonwealth. Sierra Leone considers the Convention as basis for mutual law enforcement cooperation.

Sierra Leone has not yet carried out joint investigations, but could participate in them upon request (section 103 ACA 2008).

While the Anti-Corruption Act of 2008 does not contain provisions on special investigative techniques, the authorities confirmed that they could use such techniques in corruption cases. Sierra Leone has not concluded agreements or

arrangements for their use at the international level, but could do so upon request in joint investigations on a case-by-case basis (section 103 ACA 2008).

3.2. Successes and good practices

- Sierra Leone has spontaneously transmitted information to neighbouring States (art. 46, para. 4).
- Sierra Leone provides reasons for postponing the execution of an request for mutual legal assistance (art. 46, para. 23).
- Personnel exchanges among law enforcement agencies are carried out (art. 48, subpara. 1(e)).

3.3. Challenges in implementation

To further strengthen international cooperation, it is recommended that Sierra Leone:

- Ensure that extradition for corruption offences can also be granted to States parties not included in the Extradition Act; modernize the Extradition Act in order to simplify procedures; and ensure the application of section 126 of the Anti-Corruption Act as if it included all offences covered by the Convention. Should the judiciary not interpret the Act in this manner, legislative reform may be required (art. 44, para. 1).
- Carry out all extradition proceedings in accordance with the legislation to ensure fair treatment at all stages of the proceedings, including enjoyment of all rights and guarantees provided by the domestic law and compliance with the principle of legality (art. 44, paras. 1, 8, 15).
- Sierra Leone could grant extradition in the absence of dual criminality also to States which are not members of the Commonwealth (art. 44, para. 2); and for related offences outside the scope of application of the ECOWAS Convention (art. 44, para. 3).
- Deem all corruption offences included in its treaty with the United States, or consider taking an all-crimes approach; and undertake to include corruption offences in every extradition treaty to be concluded (art. 44, para. 4).
- Sierra Leone could consider the Convention as legal basis for extradition (art. 44, para. 5).
- Inform the Secretary-General whether it would take the Convention as the legal basis for cooperation on extradition (art. 44, para. 6).
- In the interest of furthering the principle of legality, determine which cases are considered to be of a trivial nature (art. 44, para. 8).
- Establish an obligation to submit cases for prosecution at the request of the State party seeking extradition when extradition requests are denied (art. 44, para. 11).
- Legislate to allow for the consideration of the enforcement of foreign sentences in practice (art. 44, para. 13).

- Clarify that it is not obliged to extradite a person if it believes that the request has been made for discriminatory reasons; with regard to Commonwealth countries, include requests made to prosecute or punish a person on account of that person's sex or ethnic origin as reasons for refusal; and include requests for ordinary crimes made for the purpose of prosecuting or punishing a person on discriminatory grounds as reasons for refusal in its bilateral treaty (art. 44, para. 15).

- Continue exchanging with the requesting State to provide it with the opportunity to present its opinions and relevant information (art. 44, para. 17).

- Seek to conclude further extradition agreements or arrangements (art. 44, para. 18).

- Could consider entering into agreements or arrangements on the transfer of sentenced persons (art. 45).

- Clarify its legislation with regard to its ability to provide mutual legal assistance for the recovery of assets in accordance with chapter V of the Convention (art. 46, subpara. 3(k).

- Extend the spontaneous transmission of information also to non-neighbouring States (art. 46, para. 4).

- Apply paragraphs 9 to 29 of article 46 of the Convention to requests made pursuant to article 46 if Sierra Leone is not bound by a treaty with the requesting State (art. 46, para. 7).

- Sierra Leone could consider adopting such measures to enable it to provide a wider scope of assistance in the absence of dual criminality (art. 46, subpara. 9(c)).

- Establish a regulatory framework that should include a requirement for the consent of detained persons to be transferred (art. 46, paras. 10-12).

- Notify the Secretary-General of the United Nations of its central authority for mutual legal assistance (art. 46, para. 13); and the languages acceptable for requests for mutual legal assistance (art. 46, para. 14).

- Sierra Leone could permit hearings to take place by videoconference (art. 46, para. 18).

- Continue to seek the consent of the requested State party prior to using information furnished by another State party for purposes other than those specified in the request (art. 46, para. 19).

- Ensure that the provision of mutual legal assistance in corruption cases is not limited by the possibility to refuse requests on the basis of substantially different grounds for refusal in the legislation of the requesting State (art. 46, para. 21).

- Monitor the continued practice of consulting the requesting State party to consider whether assistance may be granted subject to terms and conditions (art. 46, para. 26).

- Ensure the safe conduct of witnesses, experts or other persons who consent to give evidence (art. 46, para. 27).
- Consider transferring proceedings for the prosecution of corruption offences in which it is considered to be in the interests of proper administration of justice (art. 47).
- Sierra Leone is encouraged to continue its efforts in strengthening law enforcement cooperation (art. 48, para. 1).
- Consider concluding agreements or arrangements for the establishment of joint investigative bodies (art. 49).
- Clarify the applicability of special investigative techniques through the establishment of a legal basis for the use of such techniques, where necessary (art. 50, para. 1).
- Sierra Leone is encouraged to conclude agreements or arrangements on the use of special investigative techniques at the international level (art. 50, para. 2).

3.4. Technical assistance needs identified to improve implementation of the Convention

Sierra Leone indicated the following needs for technical assistance:

- Summary of good practices/lessons learned (arts. 44, 46-50).
- Legal advice (arts. 44, 46 and 47).
- Capacity-building programmes for authorities responsible for international cooperation in criminal matters (arts. 44, 46 and 47), for cross-border law enforcement cooperation (arts. 48 and 49), as well as for designing and managing the use of special investigative techniques, and for international cooperation in investigative matters (art. 50).
- Development of an action plan for implementation (arts. 44, 46, 47, 49 and 50).
- Model treaties or arrangements (arts. 44-46 and 50).
- On-site assistance by an anti-corruption expert (arts. 46 and 47), or by a relevant expert (arts. 48 and 50).
- Assistance in the set-up and management of databases/information-sharing systems (art. 48).
- Software to analyse telephone records and other records, as well as assistance with regard to court recordings (art. 50).